

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF APRIL 15 TO BRANCHVILLE, CONN.

A party of twenty-two visited the region which was new to most of them. Before taking the trail through the woods a short visit was made to the pegmatite quarry where many fine specimens are available. Due to the continued cool weather few plants were seen in bloom. Deep blue-purple hepatica blossoms were numerous, half hidden in the thick ground covering of dead leaves. Other plants seen were antennaria, rattlesnake plantain, spotted wintergreen, pyrola, hellebore, skunk cabbage, golden saxifrage, blue violet, partridge berry, dogtooth violet, pipsissewa and wintergreen. We were pleased to find a large stand of *Buxbaumia aphylla*, a small stand of *Bartramia pomiformis*, *Hedwigia albicans* and *Polytrichum piliferum*, the latter with its antheridial rosetts. Three lycopodiums were seen along the trail, *L. lucidulum*, *L. obscurum* and *L. complanatum*. We lunched near a swamp and those interested in herpetology did some investigating and found eggs of the wood frog and of the spotted salamander, water newts, spotted salamanders, spring peepers and a leopard frog.

ELEANOR FRIEND

TRIP OF MAY, 20, 1934, TO BAY TERRACE, STATEN ISLAND

Eight members and guests of the club braved the heat and the mosquitoes and saw the usual run of spring flowers, including *Tussilago Farfara* still holding forth, and several species of violets: *Viola lanceolata*, *primulifolia*, *papilionacea*, *fimbriatula*, and *pedata* var. *lineariloba*. Eight common ferns were found, as well as *Botrychium virginianum* and *Woodwardia areolata*, the latter showing last year's fertile fronds standing up among the new sterile ones. Two Aronias and several ericaceous shrubs were in bloom, and both staminate and pistillate forms of *Myrica carolinensis*. *Orobanche uniflora* was blooming in the grass along the street, and *Comandra umbellata* was plentiful in the woods. We dug up *Comandra* to see the parasitic attachments its roots had formed on those of other plants. *Cypripedium*

acaule was found in several places, in one place accompanied by *Pogonia verticillata*, the chief find of the day.

HESTER M. RUSK

TRIP OF MAY 20 TO THE FAHNSTOCK ESTATE, N. Y.

The party started from the Wodehouse cottage on Oscawana Lake, took the Cold Spring road north to Mud Lake. The road leads through a dense hardwood forest in which species of oak are dominant. Much of the land in this region had been cleared and farmed, but about forty years ago was abandoned and allowed to revert to forest. Occasionally, however, were seen some of the giants of the original forest, principally white and red oaks. Scattered throughout are a large number of sassafras trees, all of which had suffered more or less severe winter injury but apparently none of them quite killed. Mud Lake is small and shallow with reedy and marshy shores, and brownish water in which grow an abundance of white water lilies. The leaves of these had already appeared, and lay with their freshly expanded surfaces gleaming in the sunlight over the placid surface of nearly the whole lake.

From Mud Lake the party followed the Appalachian trail northward to Clear Lake. Though this little lake is less than a quarter of a mile away it is more than a hundred feet higher than Mud Lake, and is in an entirely different setting. The shores of Clear Lake are rocky and dry, and, where ever a foothold may be obtained, are occupied by small pitch pines (*P. rigida*), scrub oak (*Q. ilicifolia*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and various species of *Vaccinium*. The water of the lake is clear and cold, and devoid of any conspicuous aquatic vegetation.

From Clear Lake the party continued northward through rather open forest of *Betula lutea*, *B. lenta* and *B. populifolia* in varying proportions, with an admixture of poplars, hemlock, beech, an occasional linden and numerous badly diseased young chestnuts. The many straight and slender boles of chestnut standing whitening in the sun or rotting on the ground showed that much of this region had been occupied by a dense and nearly pure stand of chestnut prior to the visit of *Endothia parasitica*. Over a large part of this region was a dense ground cover of *Lycopodium complanatum*, with occasional plants of *L. obscurum*.

Many interesting plants were encountered on the trip besides those already mentioned. Of those that were in flower, the wild azalea (*A. nudiflora*) with its gorgeous pink flowers was a conspicuous and beautiful object almost throughout. The stemless slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) was seen in considerable abundance, particularly in the vicinity of Clear Lake. Here were also found the dainty yellow flowers of the dwarf dandelion (*Krigia virginica*) growing in small soil pockets in the otherwise bare rock. Other plants seen in flower were the striped maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), white baneberry (*Actaea alba*), and dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolium*). But none of these was seen more than once or twice on the trip, for they must be accounted as rather rare in the region.

R. P. WODEHOUSE

TRIP of MAY 27, TO DEEP BROOK GLEN AND
GOFFLE RIDGE, N. J.

The party passed through a small swamp on the way to the glen, then up to the ridge. The following plants were found in small groups or societies:—*Comandra umbellata* on gravel; *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Pentstemon hirsutus* and *Aquilegia canadensis* on top soil on the trap rock of the ridge; *Corydalis semper-virens* on the trap rock; *Viola hastata* in the shade on the ridge and *Nepeta hederacea* on wet sandstone. The following were found growing singly:—*Saxifraga pennsylvanica* in the swamp; *Trientalis americana*, *Cypripedium acaule*, *Maianthemum canadense*, and *Mitella diphylla* in wet woods or near a small stream; *Polygonatum biflorum* and *Pyrola americana* in dry woods; and *Actea alba* and *Smilacina racemosa* on wet sandstone. The swamp and wet banks were dominated by jewel weed, *Impatiens*; the ridge by grasses; and the woods by wild sarsaparilla, *Aralia nudicaulis*.

MR. AND MRS. J. VAN SAUN